

D. GREATER OLNEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION CORRESPONDENCE



Greater Olney Civic Association

Post Office Box 212 Olney, Maryland 20830
Website Address: <http://www.goca.org>

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David Brodsky
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ICA Organizations

Olney Chamber of
Commerce

Montgomery County Citizens
Advisory Board

October 30, 2001

Ms. Carmen Harris, Project Manager
Project Planning Division
State Highway Administration
707 N. Calvert Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Ms. Harris:

The Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) has a longstanding interest in the Brookeville bypass, in no large part because of the potential effects of the road project on Olney residents, and on traffic north of the town center of Olney. GOCA recognizes as well that even though a bypass will affect Olney residents, the massive increase of traffic on Route 97 through the Town of Brookeville during the past few years has exceeded the capacity of the road through the town, and threatens the integrity of the town.

As a result of these and other considerations, GOCA feels strongly that the selected bypass alternative should:

1. Avoid impacting the fields at the Longwood Recreation Center;
2. Not include a bridge(s)
3. Cross Brookeville Road at grade; and
4. Include berms as appropriate, and maintain as many of the trees alongside the bypass alignment as possible to minimize the visual and noise impact of the bypass, to minimize the impact on the environment, and to eliminate the need for more intrusive structures, such as sound barriers.

Based on our understanding of the alternatives, GOCA believes Alternative 7 accomplishes those objectives far more effectively than the other alternatives, and thus, GOCA supports the construction of Alternative 7 of the bypass.

GOCA comes to this conclusion after a great deal of involvement in the issues surrounding the construction of the road. Mr. David Eskenazi, the GOCA Transportation Chair and Bypass Focus Group Member, has led discussions about the bypass at numerous GOCA meetings during the past few years, including animated participation from the Olney Village Home Owners Association, about the value and impact of the bypass.

Members

Briars Acres

Brookeville
Knolls

Camelback
Village

Cherrywood

Christie
Estates

Environ

Goldmine
Crossing

Hallowell

Highlands of
Olney

Homeland
Village

James Creek

Lake
Hallowell

Manor Oaks

Norbeck
Grove

Norbeck
Meadows

North Creek

Oak Grove

Olney Mill

Olney Oaks

Olney
Square

Olney Towne

Olney
Village

Perspective
Woods

Southeast
Rural Olney

Sycamore
Acres

Tanterra

Towns at
Environ

Victoria
Springs

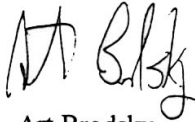
burg Village

The issues discussed at GOCA meetings have been the basis of numerous conversations between GOCA and the Commissioners of the Town of Brookeville to identify common concerns and positions related to the bypass. Presentations by you and your predecessor, Mr. Paul Maloney, further expanded our understanding of the issues.

The willingness of you, Mr. Maloney, and others at SHA to request our input, and to share information about the planning of the Bypass Project has alleviated numerous concerns that once existed about the Bypass. As a result, GOCA supports the construction of a Bypass that minimizes the visual and noise impact for nearby residents, and that protects the environment to the maximum extent feasible.

Again, I want to thank you for the significant efforts you have made to involve GOCA, member civic associations and Olney residents in the planning efforts for the bypass. I would also like to commend you on the success of those efforts.

Sincerely,



Art Brodsky

President

Greater Olney Civic Association



*Maryland Department of Transportation
State Highway Administration*

Parris N. Glendening
Governor

John D. Porcari
Secretary

Parker F. Williams
Administrator

November 29, 2001

Mr. Art Brodsky
President
Greater Olney Civic Association
P. O. Box 212
Olney MD 20830

Dear Mr. Brodsky:

Thank you for your comments regarding the MD 97 Brookeville Project. The State Highway Administration (SHA) encourages public involvement and appreciates your comments. Your support for Alternate 7 has been noted. Your concerns regarding the Longwood Recreation Center fields and, the visual and noise impacts have been noted as well.

At this time, the at-grade and grade-separated connection at Brookeville Road will continue to be evaluated for each of the alternates. The SHA will also make every attempt to minimize any impacts near the Longwood Community Center as well as the residents along the proposed bypass.

The next step for this project will be the selection of a preferred alternate. This decision will be made in the winter 2001/2002. During this process, continued coordination with the federal, state and local government agencies will occur. The citizen comments received at the MD 97 Brookeville Location/Design Public hearing held on Wednesday, October 3, 2001 will be also utilized in the decision making process.

My telephone number is

Maryland Relay Service for Impaired Hearing or Speech
1-800-735-2258 Statewide Toll Free

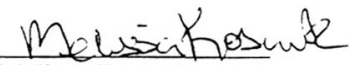
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 717 • Baltimore, MD 21203-0717
Street Address: 707 North Calvert Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Mr. Art Brodsky
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Again, thank you for your interest in the MD 97 Brookeville Project. If you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to contact Carmeletta T. Harris, the project manager, at 410-545-8522 or toll-free in Maryland at 1-800-548-502 or via email at charris@sha.state.md.us.

Very truly yours,

Cynthia D. Simpson
Deputy Director
Office of Planning and
Preliminary Engineering

By: 
Melissa Kosenak
Project Engineer
Project Planning Division

cc: Ms. Carmeletta T. Harris, Project Manager, State Highway Administration
Ms. Shannon Rousey, Environmental Manager, State Highway Administration